

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 OES-03 XMB-02 /134 W

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R 032104Z APR 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9762

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJ: 7TH SPECIAL SESSION - INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF

PREPCOM - 4/2/75

1. BUREAU OF PREP-COM CONVENED FIRST INFORMAL MEETING TO
INITIATE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS. SESSION CHAIRED BY
NETHERLANDS PERMREP KAUFMANN IN ABSENCE OF CHAIRMAN BENNONI.

2. DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON DESIRABILITY OF A GENERAL DEBATE
DURING THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION. SECRETARIAT SAID THAT
TIME IS BRIEF AND THAT 20 MEETINGS ALLOTTED FOR SPECIAL SESSION.
IF AS IS USUAL, 125 DELEGATIONS INTERVENE, THE GENERAL
DEBATE REQUIRED MINIMUM OF TWO WEEKS WITH SOME NIGHT SESSIONS.
THE UK EXPRESSED LITTLE DESIRE FOR GENERAL DEBATE AND EMPHASIZED
DESIRABILITY OF BUSINESS-LIKE SESSION RESULTING IN CONCRETE
PROGRESS. THEREAFTER, SEVERAL DELEGATIONS (POLAND, ALGERIA,
AUSTRALIA, USSR, MEXICO AND FINLAND) INSISTED THAT
SOVEREIGN STATES HAVE RIGHT TO COMMENT UPON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 6TH SPECIAL SESSION. US DEL
EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR MINI-DEBATE WITH SESSION

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EMPHASIS UPON CONSULTATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS ON SMALL

NUMBER OF ITEMS. SUGGESTED THAT EXPLICIT AGENDA, COUPLED WITH COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC ESTIMATES AND THOROUGH PREPARATORY WORK, WOULD EASE TASKS OF THOSE SPEAKING IN GENERAL DEBATE. STRONGLY RECOMMENDED ADHERENCE TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE FORMAT WHEREBY DRAFT DECISIONS AND/OR RESOLUTIONS WOULD BE KNOWN TO DELEGATIONS WELL IN ADVANCE OF SESSION.

3. AFTER EXTENDED DISCUSSION, CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF GENERAL DEBATE EMERGED LARGELY BECAUSE NO PROCEDURAL METHOD FOR CONTROLLING OR LIMITING ACCEPTABLE.

4. THE BRITISH THEN TABLED THEIR INFORMAL PROPOSAL FOR A THREE-TIER APPROACH TO SPECIAL SESSION TEXT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE SHARED NEED TO MOVE TOWARDS A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER. BUT IN OUR VIEW THE TIME FOR DRAFTING NEW SWEEPING PRINCIPLES AND OVERALL PROGRAMMES OF ACTION IS PAST; WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS IS POSITIVE AND EFFECTIVE ACTION. WE BELIEVE THIS VIEW IS GENERALLY SHARED AND THAT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE FROM CONFRONTATION TO PARTNERSHIP AND PRACTICAL PROGRESS.

WITH THIS OBJECT IN MIND WE PROPOSE A THREE-TIER APPROACH TO THE SPECIAL SESSION.

LEVEL ONE: WE ENVISAGE MINISTERS ADOPTING A SHORT GENERAL STATEMENT THAT WOULD ENCAPSULATE THE PRESENT STATE OF SHARED OPINION IN THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS A NEW ORDER. IT WOULD BE A PRACTICAL COMMITMENT TO CHANGE AND TO CONSTRUCTIVE INTERDEPENDENCE THAT WOULD PROVIDE IMPETUS TO AND A FRAMEWORK FOR, THE ACTION THAT IS NEEDED.

LEVEL TWO: THIS WOULD INVOLVE CONCENTRATION OF DISCUSSION ON CERTAIN SPECIFIC AREAS WHERE THE PROSPECTS ARE BEST FOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WE BELIEVE THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE COULD IDENTIFY AND PREPARE A NUMBER OF AREAS IN WHICH USEFUL PROGRESS IS FEASIBLE IN SEPTEMBER. COMMODITY PROBLEMS AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF COMMODITY EXPORT PRICES TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' IMPORT BILL IS ONE POSSIBLE AREA. AT THIS LEVEL COULD ALSO COME CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE UN SYSTEM.

LEVEL THREE: THIS WOULD COVER AN ASSESSMENT OF THOSE AREAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHERE IMMEDIATE AGREEMENT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE MOMENT BUT WHERE CONSIDERABLY FURTHER WORK NEEDS TO BE CARRIED OUT. THE CONTENTS OF LEVEL 3 CAN ONLY BE CLARIFIED AFTER AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON WHAT SUBJECTS ARE TO BE INCLUDED IN LEVEL 2. THE AIM IS NOT TO BRUSH ANY QUESTIONS ASIDE; IT IS TO ENSURE THAT THERE CAN BE CONTINUED NEGOTIATION IN ALL AREAS WITHOUT HINDERING PROGRESS AND ACTION IN THOSE AREAS WHERE EARLY AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE.

WE THINK THIS PROGRAMME COULD BE ACHIEVED IF MINISTERS CONCENTRATE MAINLY ON LEVEL 1, WHILE OFFICIALS, BOTH BEFORE AND DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION, PROCESS LEVELS 2 AND 3 FOR CONSIDERATION BY MINISTERS IN PLENARY. IN OUR VIEW THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION SHOULD BE A WORKING SESSION FROM THE START SO THAT THERE IS TIME FOR REAL AGREEMENT TO BE REACHED. END TEXT

5. IT WAS THEN AGREED THAT NEXT CONSULTATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE DURING WEEK OF APRIL 14. DELEGATIONS WOULD THEN BE PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT UPON BRITISH INITIATIVE AND ON ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL SESSION.

FYI: PRESENT THINKING IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO MEETING OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES. IN LIEU THEREOF TWO AD HOC WORKING GROUPS WOULD BE CREATED ON (A) SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND (B) STRUCTURAL ISSUES. IN OUR VIEW, THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT PROCEDURE IN SO FAR AS STRUCTURAL CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD BE CONDITIONED BY PRIOR AGREEMENTS ON SUBSTANCE. IN ADDITION, WE WONDER WHETHER A SINGLE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON SUBSTANCE WOULD HAVE THE TIME AND COMPETENCE TO DEAL WITH THE NUMBER AND VARIETY OF ISSUES (COMMODITIES, INDUSTRIALIZATION, RESOURCE TRANSFER, ETC.) THERE LIKELY TO EXIST BEFORE SESSION. IN ANY CASE, REQUEST DEPARTMENTAL VIEW PRIOR TO NEXT INFORMAL SESSION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, MEETING AGENDA, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PLANNING MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN01076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750116-0802
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750483/aaaacybd.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 7TH SPECIAL SESSION - INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF PREPCOM - 4/2/75
TAGS: EGEN, US, XX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006